



# Code Connection

## Gregg C. Fields Named Alexandria's Director of Code Administration

Gregg C. Fields



Gregg C. Fields has been selected as the City's new Director of Code Administration. He has served as Acting Director since December 2014. Fields is a Building and Property Maintenance Code Official, certified by the International Code Council and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Fields joined the City in 2001 as the first trade combination plans examiner, responsible for assisting homeowners and small businesses with the permit review process. Fields

was later promoted to Division Chief of Plan Review and then Deputy Building Official, and has been responsible for the Small Business Facilitation Program and significant improvements to the City's one-stop Permit Center. Prior to his work in Alexandria, Fields served for 15 years as a project sales manager for two large Washington, D.C., metropolitan area contracting firms, where he sold and managed more than \$100 million in construction projects. He is also the Second Vice President for the

Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (a chapter of the International Code Council) and is slated to serve as president of the organization in 2018. Previously, Fields was chairman and public information officer of the Northern Virginia region of the association. Fields also served in the U.S. Army and the Virginia National Guard, and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal and the Virginia Emergency Services Ribbon.

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## City to Implement New Permitting System

In the coming months, the City will be implementing a new permitting system. The new system will provide more efficient permit processing, an improved user interface for both customers and employees, and increased accessibility to permit records by the public. Implementation of the new software program will

require data conversion, staff training, customer training, software testing, and ongoing system improvements. As we implement the new system, customer wait times and the amount of time needed to process permits may be increased. We appreciate your patience during this time as our staff works hard to

improve the services that we provide and we appreciate the amount of support that the public has shown for our services. Have any suggestions or feedback? Let us know by completing our online survey at [www.alexandriava.gov/PermitCenter](http://www.alexandriava.gov/PermitCenter).



## Inspector Spotlight

### Leona Bradford



Leona Bradford was hired in the Department of Code Administration as an administrative assistant 2013. In the first few months of starting the job, she would eagerly work through every administrative task assigned to her, then check in with her supervisor for more assignments. On the rare occasion she didn't have a deadline-driven task in front of her, she would pull out her copies of the Virginia Maintenance code or the ICC Residential building code and study each for additional knowledge. She often wandered into The Property Maintenance Official's office to ask questions about the Virginia

Maintenance code and hear stories about the delicate balance of serving the community with enhanced customer service while still enforcing the established standards of the maintenance code. With an Associate's Degree in the Applied Science of Engineering, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Architecture, Leona applied for an open Inspector I position and landed the job in the Property Maintenance Division. Now, instead of fulfilling FOIA requests and preparing spreadsheets, she's receiving field training and conducting inspections in the Arlandia community, serving as an integral member of the maintenance code inspection team.

From left to right, Allison Cook, Maryia Lackansingh & Bill King



The Department of Code Administration was excited to present the first of our Fall Customer Technical Training Events. The first training event, 2012 Virginia Rehabilitation Code, was on October 22 at the Nannie J. Lee Center located at 1108 Jefferson Street. Fifty people attended the training, which was

created and presented by three of our own staff: Assistant Director Bill King, Small Business Facilitator Allison Cook, and Small Business Facilitator Maryia Lackansingh. Code Administration would like to thank everyone who came to the event!

## Code Administration Employee Certifications

Congratulations to Maryia Lackansingh, Small Business Facilitator, who successfully earned her International Code Certification as a Residential Plans Examiner, Residential Energy Inspector/Plans Examiner Exam and Department of Housing and Development (DHCD)

certification as Combination Building Plans Examiner! Way to go, Maryia! Congratulations are also in order for Adam Ward who received an ICC certifications as an Accessibility Inspector/ Plans Examiner and the Fire Protection—General. Way to go Adam!

From left to right, Pete Mensinger, Sandra Kyer, Tara Currie-Whitman & Gregg Fields



## Annual VBCOA Conference

Members of the Alexandria Code Administration staff attended this year's 2015 Annual Virginia Building & Code Officials Association (VBCOA) conference in Virginia Beach (Region VIII).

Special congratulations are in order for Pete Mensinger, who was selected by the VBCOA Nominations Committee to become Sergeant-at-Arms. Well deserved, Pete!



## VBCOA Supports Grayson County's Leadership in the High School Technical Training Program



Robert Sales, ICC-Government Relations, and Pete Mensinger, VBCOA-HSTTP Chair, meeting with Grayson, Carroll, and Galax County Administrators, State Fire Marshals and education representatives about the benefits of the High School Technical Training Program.

On September 11, 2015, while the United States commemorated the 14th anniversary of the events of 9/11/2001 with a National Day of Service, VBCOA was reaching out across the state to support and develop Code Administration leadership for the future. Grayson County Building Official Jimmy Moss requested assistance from VBCOA in an attempt to support the building trades program in Grayson and adjacent counties.

Alexandria's Pete Mensinger (VBCOA - High School Technical Training Program [HSTTP] Chair) and Robert Sales (International Code Council [ICC] - Government Relations) met with Grayson, Carroll, and Galax County Administrators, Wytheville Community College Representatives, local building officials, the State Fire Marshal's office and regional education representatives about the benefits of the High School Technical Training Program to students and industry ([www.iccsafe.org/HSTTP](http://www.iccsafe.org/HSTTP)).

Attendees included Mike Yingling; State Fire Marshalls Office; Josh Davidson; Town of Chilhowie Building Department; Rodger Halsey; Wytheville Community College; Scott Queensberry, Wytheville Community College Trades Teacher; Bill Sutherland, Director of CTE, Testing & Assessment, Galax City Schools; Bill Strugill, Galax City Schools Superintendent; Mr. Strader Blankenship, Carroll County Schools Superintendent; Larry Massie, Grayson County Schools Interim Superintendent; Eddie Jones, Grayson County School Trades Teacher; Larry Hughes, Southwest Virginia Community College; James Moss, Grayson County Building Official; and Jada Black, Grayson County Permit Technician.

During the meeting's closing remarks, Larry Massie, Grayson County Schools Interim Superintendent, stood up from his chair and said, "...this was the best 60 minutes worth of program content I have listened to in a long time." Upon hearing Massie's remarks, Jimmy Moss, Grayson County Building Official, stated his office would donate the funding necessary to get Grayson County, and all of the current high school students enrolled in the building trades program, signed up for the ICC HSTTP.

The International Code Council High School Technical Training Program provides guidance to students about the importance of building codes and how they positively affect our ever-changing environment. More importantly, the program will give students the fundamental tools necessary to secure a strong foundation for a career in the building industry and in Code Administration.

## Code Administration Holidays Events

The Alexandria Firefighters Children's Holiday Toy Drive. provides holiday gifts to children in the community we all work in and serve. A special thanks to Firefighter Mike Chandler (pictured from third from left), for helping Code Administration support this effort!



(from Left to Right) Charles Cooper, Sandra Kyer, Mike Chandler, Maryia Lackansingh, Alberto Chavez and Pete Mensinger

Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, Region V membership volunteered to support the S.E.R.V.E. food bank in Manassas this month.



Supporting this effort from the City of Alexandria are Joe Blethen (4th from left) and Pete Mensinger (2nd from right)



## Just Say Thanks! Award Winner



Charles Cooper , Site Plan Coordinator & Emily Baker, Assistant City Manager

The City's "Just Say Thanks" award recipients are nominated by colleagues across the City to recognize outstanding performance. Each month, the City Manager reviews the nominations and chooses, based on the strength of the nomination. Congratulations to Charles Cooper, Site Plan Coordinator, for receiving this honor!

## Code Administration Holiday Celebration

At the end of the year, Code Administration celebrates the holidays with our annual Holiday Party. All staff was encouraged to bring a dish. Enjoy these photos from the event.



Diane Best, Division Chief of Admin Services



From Left to Right, Donald & David Demaree, Field Inspectors & Pete Mensinger, Special Projects



From Left to Right, Sherita Moore, Management Analyst, James Hunt, Division Chief of the Permit Center & Sandra Kyer, Permit Technician

## FY16 Code Administration Activity Report

	FYTD	Previous FYTD	% Change FYTD
Total # of Permits/Licenses Issued	4,545	4,726	-4%
Total Fees Collected	1,797,325	3,520,268	-49%
Estimated Const. Cost	83,879,654	234,486,387	-64%
Total Revenue Received	1,645,341	3,557,557	-54%
Engineering Reviews			
Take in Plan Reviews	1,752	1,427	23%
Walk-Thru Shops	1,881	1,847	2%
One Stop Shops	89	100	-11%
Site Plans/MPA/BAR/BZA etc.	108	99	9%
Fire Protection Systems	271	311	-13%
Inspections: New Construction			
Building	4,475	4,700	-5%
Certificate of Occupancy	476	1,101	-57%
Demolition	48	27	78%
Electrical	3,595	3,247	11%
Fire Protection Systems	1,126	1,163	-3%
Mechanical	1,750	2,299	-24%
Plumbing	1,509	1,596	-5%
Sign	46	61	-25%
Stop Work Orders	21	27	-22%
Complaint Investigations	124	91	36%
Inspections: Property Maintenance			
Pro-Active	1,869	2,138	-13%
Complaints	1,300	883	47%
Residential Rental Inspections	0	1	0%
Violations Issued	620	1,147	-46%
Rodent Complaints	72	64	13%
Nuisance Abatement Hotline Calls	28	22	27%